

Appln. No. 10/759,262
Amendment Dated: April 3, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 29, 2007

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes only Fig. 1, replace the original sheet including Fig. 1.

Attached: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The drawings stand objected to for failure to show the features of (1) means for applying the plenum vacuum, in claim 13; and (2) the poppet valve in claim 21. The Examiner cautions that no new matter should be entered.

The Examiner has suggested that deficiency (1) may be resolved with the addition of a box labeled "blower" and a reference numeral (e.g. 54) near element 19 in Fig. 1. Applicant has made such an amendment, as shown on Replacement Sheet 1 of the drawings enclosed herewith.

In paragraph No. 2 on page 3 of the Action, which relates to the objection to claim 1 and the amendment of drawing Fig. 1, paragraph [0020] of the specification has been amended to add the reference number "54" to identify the blower.

With respect to the drawing objection relating to the failure to show the poppet valve recited in claim 21, the claim has been cancelled.

Claims 13-16, 18 and 26 stand objected to because of various informalities. Each of the seven objections has been reviewed and claims 13-16, 18 and 26 have been amended as indicated by the Examiner.

Claims 14, 15 and 26 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. With respect to claim 14, the Examiner finds insufficient antecedent basis for the phrase "the valve bias" in line 5. The Examiner has suggested that the phrase be replaced by the phrase --a valve bias--. Claim 14 has been so amended.

With respect to claim 26, the Examiner finds unclear the recitation, in lines 8-10, of "the reduced pressure differential provided by a plenum vacuum connection between an upstream end of the vacuum channel when the channel is covered by a sheet carried over the channel on the conveyor belts". In particular, the Examiner notes that the word "between" renders the phrase indefinite. Claim 26 has been amended to delete the word "between" and to insert therefore the phrase --operative to apply plenum vacuum to--.

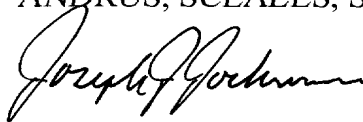
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The Examiner has indicated that claims 13 and 16-21 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections outlined above. In addition, claims 14, 15 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under §112, second paragraph, and with respect to claim 26, to overcome the objection outlined by the Examiner.

Every attempt has been made to comply with all of the deficiencies, objections and rejections in this Office Action. Therefore, claims 13-20 and 26 are now believed to be in condition for allowance and further favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ANDRUS, SCEALES, STARKE & SAWALL, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph J. Jochman", written in a cursive style.

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